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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRATTON OPPOSES DEMAND FOR CIA INVESTIGATION

Washington, D.C., Feb. 16 -- Following is a statement by Rep. Samuel S. Stratton (D-N.Y.):

"Frankly, I get a little bit tired of those who consistently latch onto every possible occasion to demand a public investigation of the operations of the CIA. I see no reason for us to be concerned about the announcement, made incidentally by a magazine which has been notoriously opposed to every effort of this country to resist communist aggression, that the CIA has contributed funds to the National Student Association.

"Let's not be over-pompous or try to kid ourselves. Everybody knows that youth organizations in communist countries, and in most other foreign countries for that matter, are official spokesmen for their own national point of view and not only directly subsidized but also organized and controlled by their country's leadership. It makes sense to me that this country has recognized the realities and made some modest effort to insure that communist propaganda at international youth gatherings was countered by American facts and figures by seeing that American young people had enough cash to get around to these gatherings. There is no evidence that the CIA ever tried to run NSA affairs.

"The situation we find with student organizations is not unlike the situation we face in the Olympics. American athletes are rigidly "amateur" and as a result have a much tougher time finding the time to train and finance their appearances at international athletic events. Communist athletes, like communist opera stars, are directly subsidized by the government, and to call them "amateurs" at all is a complete distortion of the facts. Many of us have long felt, including President Kennedy when he first came into office, that the government ought to do something to recognize this situation and give some support so that American athletes could compete with communist athletes on a more nearly equal footing.

"Except for the purposes of headline publicity, American office holders ought to know by now that we live in a very dangerous and difficult and even conspiratorial world. For responsible American legislators to insist that America's attitude always be the attitude of Pollyanna in a world all too often peopled by cutthroats and dirty players, would be a perfect formula for failure and defeat.

"We fathered the CIA after we discovered at Pearl Harbor that a modern nation neglects its dirty tricks department at its peril. I certainly hope the current tempest in a teapot over the NSA will not lead us to throw away the progress this country has made in international affairs under the leadership of five great American Presidents."